Impact of pollution on heart disease

331. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new study has pointed out that air pollution has a significant impact on heart diseases;

(b) if so, whether according to the study, early 40,000 people die of air pollution every year in Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Kanpur and Nagpur;

(c) whether the study found a rise in coronary events within 24 to 48 hours after pollution increase in Delhi; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The study entitled "Outdoor Air Pollution and Emergency Room Visits at a Hospital in Delhi" carried out by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, indicates manifestations of respiratory and cardio-vascular diseases attributable to air pollution. Degree of relationship amongst levels of pollutants, temperature, humidity etc. was assessed by using statistical models. A time lag of 24 hours improved the correlation between the levels of pollutants and the observe events. However, according to the authors, the study had limitations in the assessment of both exposure and outcome variables and as such the findings of the present study should be taken as preliminary observations. Further, the AIIMS Study did not investigates mortality due to air pollution.

(d-) The steps taken by the Government to control air pollution include the following:

(i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution which lays stress on the preventive and control aspects of pollution has been evolved.

(ii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by the various Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.

(iii) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel has also been introduced in major cities.

(iv) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied to automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.

(v) Benzene content in petrol has been reduced.

(vi) A network of 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.

(vii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(viii) Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(ix) Industries are also required to provide necessary pollution control measures before commissioning of their plants.

(x) Industries are require to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for discharging their effluent and hazardous waste.

(xi) Environmental Action Plans for 24 critically polluted areas have been prepared and are under implementation.

National parks and sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh

†332. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for Chhattisgarh for development national parks and sanctuaries;

(b) the amount sanctioned and allocated out of the above, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for this delay and by when the State would get these funds?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.